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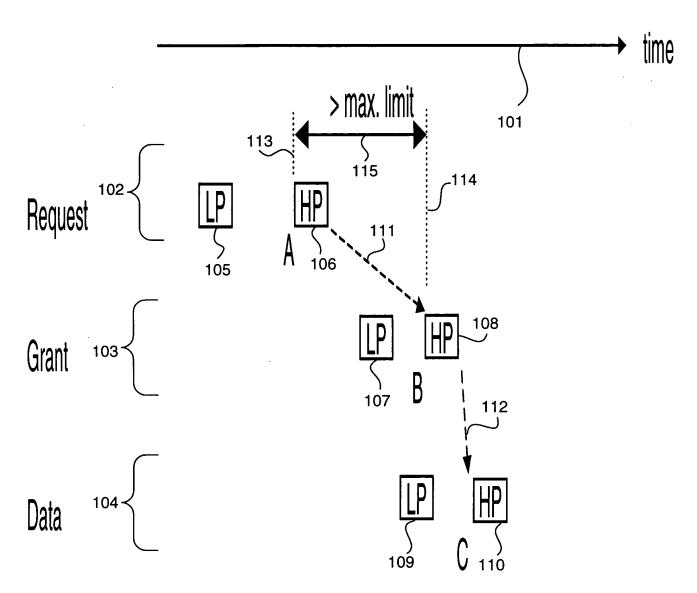


FIG. 1 PRIOR ART

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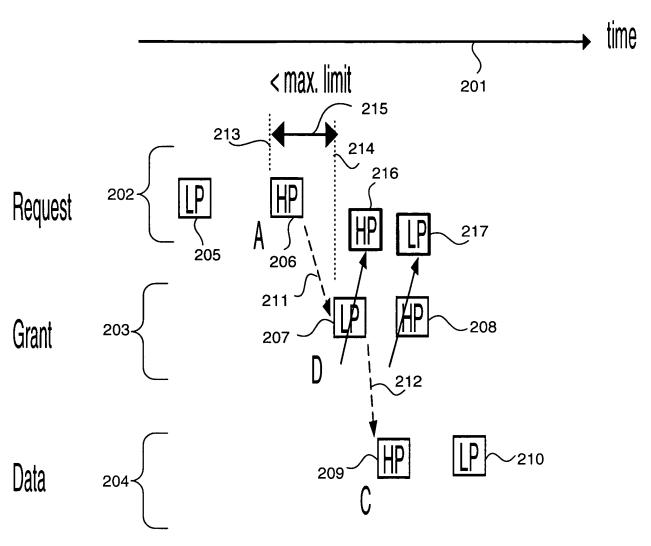


FIG. 2

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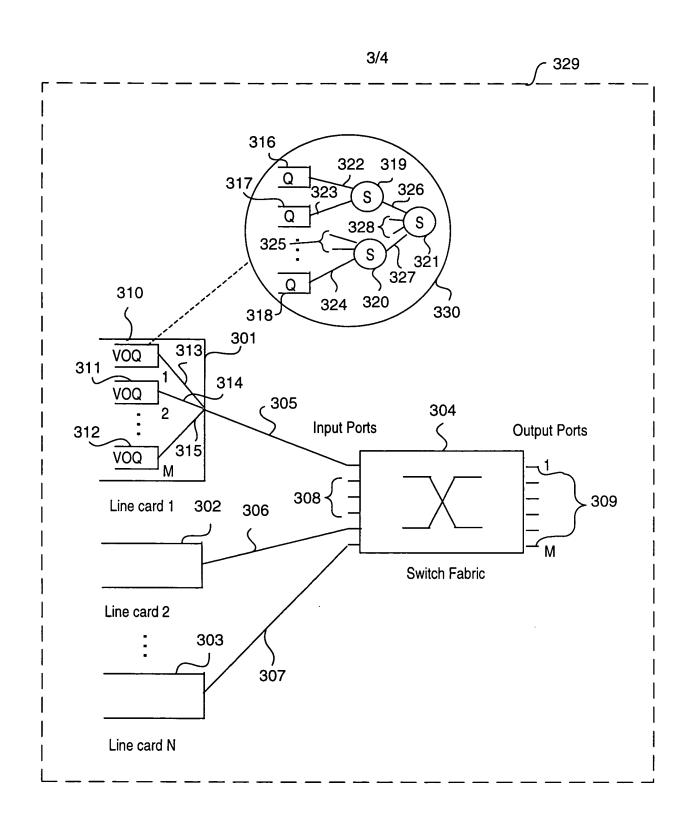


FIG. 3

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SENDING, TO THE SWITCH FABRIC BY A FIRST LINE CARD
OF THE LINE CARDS, A FIRST REQUEST FOR
TRANSMITTING A FIRST UNIT OF THE TRAFFIC OF A FIRST
PRIORITY TO THE SWITCH FABRIC, THE FIRST REQUEST
INDICATING A FIRST OUTPUT PORT FOR WHICH THE FIRST
UNIT OF THE TRAFFIC IS DESTINED

401

USING, BY THE FIRST LINE CARD, A FIRST GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE SWITCH FABRIC PERMITTING TRANSMISSION OF THE FIRST UNIT OF THE TRAFFIC TO THE SWITCH FABRIC AND ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO A SECOND REQUEST MADE FOR A SECOND UNIT OF THE TRAFFIC HAVING A SECOND PRIORITY LOWER THAN THE FIRST PRIORITY AND BEING DESTINED TO THE FIRST OUTPUT PORT, FOR SCHEDULING TRANSMISSION OF THE FIRST UNIT OF THE TRAFFIC TO THE SWITCH FABRIC

402

USING A SECOND GRANT ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRST REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING TRANSMISSION OF THE SECOND UNIT OF THE TRAFFIC TO THE SWITCH FABRIC 403

FIG. 4